

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated January 12, 2005.

Claims 24-29 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 24-26 were withdrawn from consideration and claims 27-29 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 27-29 were cancelled without prejudice and claims 30-31 were added. Claims 30-32 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 30-32 are in condition for allowance and requests withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

Elections

Examiner states that Clams 24-26 were drawn towards the same invention as non-elected claims 1-11. Therefore, Applicants selects to withdraw these claims from further consideration with traverse.

§§102 and 103 Rejections

Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jones et al. (USPN 5,957,251).

Claims 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones et al. (USPN 5,957,251).

Claims 27-29 have been cancelled making the above rejections moot.

Applicant, however, submits that independent claim 30 is patentable over Jones.

Applicant's invention as recited in the independent claim 30 is directed towards a friction clutch plate for a transmission of a land motor vehicle. For example, independent claim 27 specifies that the friction clutch plate comprises a metal core, an adhesive layer and a first sintered metal lining having a specific function. Claim 30 further specifies that

the specific function allows the land motor vehicle to operate on rough surfaces and under racing conditions. Supporting disclosure for Applicant's friction clutch plate can be found throughout the specification. (See, e.g., page 1, lines 5-10; and page 4, lines 4-8).

Jones does not disclose a friction clutch plate that allows a land motor vehicle to operate on rough surfaces and under racing conditions.

Since Jones does not disclose a friction clutch plate that allow a land motor vehicle to operate on rough surfaces and under racing conditions, Applicant believes that the independent claim 30 is patentable over Jones on at least this basis.

Claims 31 and 32 depend on claim 30. Since claim 30 is believed to be patentable over Jones, claims 31 and 32 are believed to be patentable over Jones on the basis of their dependency on claim 30.

CONCLUSION

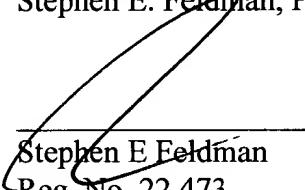
Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 06-0515.

Respectfully submitted,
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